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## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

**Doubtful Economy.** — That much of the work done by the United States through the Department of Agriculture and by the various State Commissions and Experiment Stations is of high practical importance has long been recognized both here and abroad.

Scientific men may, however, well hesitate before endorsing many of the recommendations advocated. The application of kerosene as a preventive against mosquitoes should be used only when other methods are not applicable. The destruction of herons, kingfishers, loons, grebes, and other birds, advised by the Superintendent of Hatcheries in the *Third Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries, Game, and Forests of the State of New York*, shows the extreme to which practical science tends. These birds have a scientific value and interest equal at least to the gastronomic value of the trout they destroy, and the State of New York can better afford to establish a hatchery for the benefit of the bearers of fur and feathers than to countenance or allow their slaughter.

**Frazer's Life of Cope.** — The August issue of the *American Geologist* is devoted chiefly to a memoir by Dr. Persifor Frazer, entitled "The Life and Letters of Edward Drinker Cope." The life is told mainly by the letters; Dr. Frazer's threads connecting them are slight, and though appreciative are sadly lacking in the happy touches needed for the subject. The illustrations include an interesting portrait of Cope at ten years of age and several reproductions from pen-and-ink drawings made when their author was still a lad. The care and faithfulness shown in these drawings are remarkable, qualities not fully recognized by Dr. Frazer's comparative praise. Gill's admirable address delivered at the Detroit (1897) meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is not mentioned in the list of biographies.

**The Biological Bulletin.** — From the programme of the Biological Departments of the University of Chicago, 1900-1901 (p. 4), it would appear that the publications of the University included both

the *Bulletin* and the *Journal of Morphology*, and also that contributions were limited to zoölogy and general biology. It may be well to note that the *Biological Bulletin* is still published under the auspices of the Marine Biological Laboratory, and is open to botanical as well as zoölogical papers.